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FAC News to Use

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FAC Spotlight: **Fast Driving: A Family Trait** *COT's Bottoms Wins Track Title*

Growing up watching his father and uncle work on cars and build street stock racecars gave Derek Bottoms, a project manager in COT's Office of Application Development, the "itch" to try his hand at racing.

His dad had a winning record for the five or so years he raced and even Derek's mom got in the act and competed in numerous powder puff races. So, following in his mom and dad's



footsteps (or on the accelerator pedal), at 14 Derek dug out his uncle's old racing go-cart from his grandparent's basement and dusted it off.

"As you can imagine, at 14 I didn't have any money, so I had to do a lot of begging and pleading with my parents to get the cart back on the track," said Bottoms.

After cobbling together some pieces and parts, Bottoms strapped himself into that cart to compete in his first sanctioned event at the Southern Kentucky Raceway in Somerset, Kentucky. The season was short lived as his equipment was too out dated and under powered for the competition he faced.

Bottoms stayed close to the racing industry and as a teenager attended races with his grandfather. After graduating from high school, he landed a part time job as the wrecker driver at the Bluegrass Speedway in Bardstown to stay involved in racing.

"Each and every Saturday night fueled my desire to compete," said Bottoms. After getting his degree in Computer Information Systems and starting a full time job in Louisville, he still had the desire to race. So, with a job to pay the bills and free time, he started building a car.

He reached out to a friend, with whom he had previously worked, for assistance. The duo began building the car, using parts off one of Derek's dad's old cars, and combined them with Derek's first street

car, a 1981 Cutlass Supreme. The result was a Sportsman stock car ready to compete at Bardstown's Bluegrass Speedway on Saturday nights, which Derek raced in the last two races of the season in 2004 and all of the 2005, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Since that first season, Bottoms has competed in the Sportsman Division at various tracks around Kentucky and Tennessee.

Victory Lap for 2013

While most people might not celebrate a fourth place finish, Bottoms did exactly that at the end of the 2013 season at the Ponderosa Speedway in Junction City. His 13th and final race of the season gave him enough points to propel him up to the Sportsman Division and overall track points leader, giving him the top honors as overall track champion.

"In any given year, our goal is to win that track's point championship," said Bottoms. "We were just one feature start from winning the points at Ponderosa Speedway in 2012. But, we hit pay dirt last year clinching the championship in dramatic style on the last race of the year!"

See Racing, Cont'd on Pg. 2

From the Desk of ...

Katrina LeMay, Chief Information Security Officer

How to Recognize Online Tax Scams

Tax season is in full swing and criminals are seizing the opportunity for scams. Because of the recent major data breaches we've seen in the past few months, which exposed sensitive information on a large scale, we should be even more vigilant about taking steps to minimize our risk of ID theft and other online-related crime. Don't become the next victim.

Scammers leverage every means at their disposal to separate you from your money, your identity, or anything else of value they can get. They may offer seemingly legitimate "tax services" designed to steal your identity and your tax refund, sometimes with the lure of bigger write-offs or refunds. Scams may include mocked up websites and tax forms that look like they belong to the IRS to trick you into providing your personal information.

Vigilance about the security of our online activities is required every day, but is especially important during this time of year. Below are some warning signs to look for and basic precautions you can take to minimize risk.

How to recognize online tax scams

- ~ requests personal and/or financial information, such as name, SSN, bank or credit card account numbers or security-related information, such as mother's maiden name, either in the email itself or on another site to which a link in the email directs you;
- ~ includes exciting offers to get you to respond, such as mentioning a tax refund or offering to pay you to participate in an IRS survey;

See Tax Scams, Cont'd on Pg. 2

Personnel Moves

Elwyn Rainer Now Branch Manager for Risk and Compliance Management Branch, COT

As the new branch manager for the Risk and Compliance Management Branch in COT's Office of the Chief Information Security Officer, Elwyn leads a staff tasked with many different responsibilities. These include centralized compliance for IT, mitigating risks and helping agencies comply with various IT compliance requirements from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA).

Rainer has held various roles in state government including supervisor, project manager, network configuration, website development and training. He has worked to provide services to veterans of the commonwealth by streamlining processes and reducing costs while he was at the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs.



Elwyn has a Bachelors and Masters of Science Degree from Kentucky State University. He is active in the community, is a member of the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce and Speakers Bureau, and serves as the Area 41 Governor for the Bluegrass Division of Toastmasters International. He also serves at his church within the brotherhood and jail ministry.

He lives in Frankfort with his wife Crystal and two sets of twin girls. When not working, Elwyn enjoys time with his family, listening and reading personal development material, and engaging others to unlock their passion in life.

Racing, Cont'd from Pg. 1

Aspirations

This year Derek plans to travel to different tracks. For him, this gets him out of his comfort zone. When he's at his weekly "home" track he doesn't really need to change anything or do anything different. He already knows what works to keep finishing up front. But, at a new track, he has to adapt and overcome—learn new things and try different set ups. By doing this, his goal for the 2014 season is to grow as a driver.

"I'd drive about anything with wheels and would love to drive on the Nascar level," Bottoms added. But, at this point in my life considering my age and status of my racing career that is probably not very likely. Although an attainable goal for me would be to drive in any of the upper levels on dirt for someone else. That to me would be success. Doing what I love and someone else paying for it."

Derek's been with COT since mid 2005. One of the most interesting projects he's worked on was the ELF project for DOR in 2005/2006.

"We had a great team and a mountain of work to do in a very tight timeline. We did what was needed to get the job done and became very close during that time."

Tax Scams, Cont'd from Pg. 1

- ~ threatens a consequence for not responding to the email, such as additional taxes or blocking access to your funds;
- ~ has incorrect spelling for the Internal Revenue Service or other federal agencies;
- ~ uses incorrect grammar or odd phrasing;
- ~ discusses "changes to tax laws" that include a downloadable document (usually in PDF format) that purports to explain the new tax laws (these downloads are populated with malware that, once downloaded, may infect your computer).

How To Avoid Becoming a Victim

- ~ Carefully select the sites you visit. Safely searching for tax forms, advice on deductibles, tax preparers, and other similar topics requires caution. Do not visit a site by clicking on a link sent in an email, found on someone's blog, or in an advertisement. The website you land on may look just like the real site, but it may be a well-crafted fake.
- ~ Be wise about Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi hotspots are intended to provide convenient access to the Internet and are not necessarily secure against eavesdropping by hackers. Do not use public Wi-Fi to file your taxes.
- ~ Don't fall prey to email, web, or social networking scams. Common scams tout tax rebates, offer great deals on tax preparation or offer a free tax calculator tool. If you did not solicit the information, it's likely a scam. ***If the email claims to be from the IRS, it's a scam -- the IRS will not contact you via email, text messaging or your social network, nor does it advertise on websites.*** If the email appears to be from your employer, bank, broker, etc., claiming there is an issue with what they reported for you and you need to verify some information, it might be a scam. Do not respond to the email. Contact the entity directly before responding.
- ~ Never send sensitive information in an email. It may be intercepted by criminals.
- ~ Use strong passwords. Cyber criminals have developed programs that automate the ability to guess your passwords. To protect yourself, passwords must be difficult for others to guess, but at the same time, easy for you to remember. Passwords should have a minimum of nine characters and include upper case (capital letters), lower case letters, numbers, and symbols. Make sure your work passwords are different from your personal passwords.

Closing Schedule for FY13-14 Set

In accordance with KRS 45.229(2), the Finance and Administration Cabinet is legally required to close the old year accounts within 30 days of June 30. The schedule of closing procedures for fiscal year 2014 can be found online at

<http://finance.ky.gov/services/statewideacct/Pages/yearendsupport.aspx>

It includes deadlines for final eMARS document approvals that apply to accounting, purchasing, budgeting, and personnel matters.

Also, please note that goods must be received by Monday, June 30 in order to be paid with FY14 funds.